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School, Family, and Recreation

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School, Family, and Recreation

Iowa schools and Iowa children have been of primary concern to the Iowa Congress of Parents and Teachers. The welfare of the children had been uppermost in the minds of such women as Mrs. Birney and Mrs. Hillis as they plotted the course of the national and state organizations. Measured over the span of a half century, the PTA has made substantial contributions to the welfare of Iowa's most important crop — her children.

School Lunch Program

Time was when the schools carried the school lunch project through alone, but now it has been taken over almost completely by the National School Lunch Program. Approximately one-fourth of the nation's school children were fed under this program last year. (Iowa's allotment from Federal funds was \$937,746 in 1948-1949 and \$1,163,762 in 1949-1950.) More than 100,000 Iowa children are receiving a nutritious lunch at school every day. Since 1946, the lunch program, at the state level, has been directed by the Department of Public Instruction.

Iowa Family Life Conference

The National Conference on Family Life, meet-

ing at Washington, D. C., May 5-8, 1948, had two representatives from Iowa — Mrs. H. C. Breckenridge of Charles City, president of the ICPT, and Mrs. O. S. Fatland of Colfax, fifth vice-president and director of Home Service. A follow-up conference was held in Iowa, where by means of workshops, discussion groups, and lectures, ways were considered in which Iowa groups could contribute to each other's understanding of family problems. It was discovered that one could benefit another in planning cooperative efforts to improve all human relations. Specific recommendations emerged as to Education for Family Living, Health, Home Management, Social Welfare, and Family Counseling. Forty-nine of the fifty groups polled reported benefits.

Safety

Various safety measures have been recommended and sponsored. Some of these are — city ordinances governing the licensing and use of bicycles; extensive use of Scotch-lite, a luminous tape applied to frame of bicycle and to rider's jacket or sweater; programs and films on safety and on traffic problems; education of youth in "motor manners"; driver-training courses in high schools; representation in the State Safety Congress; special traffic signs and school stops erected on highways; school patrols attending bad crossings near schools; home safety checks by youth, "Clean-Up Week," and fire-prevention education.

Recreation

In the area of community planning, the PTA studies a community's resources, services, problems, and needs. This is followed up with a Community Council organization plan for utilizing the existing facilities and for meeting the needs in an improved community program. For example, in the Dubuque Youth Council the following projects were carried out: Anti-Fly campaign, School Community Chest drive, Tuberculosis Fund drive, Adult Education Forum membership campaign, Children's Film Library (goal of one approved film every Saturday night), and an Anti-Immoral Comic Book campaign. The Dubuque Youth Council also works with the local Kiwanis Club to plan various worth-while youth activities, among them dancing, clothing drives for overseas, CROP drives, pen pals overseas, better movies, and the Community Chest.

Summer Round-Up

Among the health projects of the Iowa Congress of Parents and Teachers the Summer Round-Up leads all others. The program of a physical check of all pre-school children and those entering school very nearly meets the Congress goal that *every* child should go to school as free as possible from remediable defects. Clinics for immunization as set up in various communities have had untold results in decreasing communicable disease. Many units have sponsored the fluorine

treatment for children's teeth, and for many years state-wide dental programs have been carried on.

Not only has the young child been considered in this program, but X-rays of the chest for high school pupils and teachers have served the objective of continuing good health throughout the school period. Community health problems have also been studied. Health information has been given through various publications, participation in district and state health programs, and educational films.

MRS. O. S. FATLAND